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Michael A. Rivera

September 10, 2010

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Received & Inspected

SEP 14 2010

FCC Mail Room

Attention: Wireline Competition Bureau

Re: State Commission Certification for Rate Comparability
CC Docket No. 96-45

Pursuant to the Section 54.317(b) of CFR Title 47, the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission has reviewed the comparability of residential rates in rural areas of the state served by non-rural incumbent carriers (ILECs) to urban rates nationwide, and certifies that the rates are comparable. The Commission makes attestation by use of the safe harbor provision and comparing the residential rate in rural areas by Qwest, the only non-rural ILEC in New Mexico, to the nationwide urban benchmark of \$ 36.52. Qwest's total monthly charge for flat-rate service in rural areas is \$ 24.46. Therefore, Qwest's rural rates are reasonably comparable to urban rates nationwide.

The most recent annual *Reference Book of Rates, Price Indices, and Expenditures for Telephone Services* dated 2008 was used to derive the figures.

If additional information is required, please contact Ken Smith at 505-827-4411.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Roy E. Stephenson".
Roy Stephenson
Utility Division Director

cc: Karen Majcher
Universal Service Administration Company
2000 L Street, N.W. Suite 200
Washington D.C. 20036

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